

VZCZCXRO1554
PP RUEHCHI
DE RUEHNE #9335 3461036
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
P 121036Z DEC 05
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7235
INFO RUCNASE/ASEAN MEMBER COLLECTIVE
RUCNNSG/NUCLEAR SUPPLIERS GROUP COLLECTIVE
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RUEHRL/AMEMBASSY BERLIN 0406
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 0799
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RUEHBUL/AMEMBASSY KABUL 2090
RUEHKL/AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR 0705
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 7255
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 5632
RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA 0492
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E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: PM SINGH AFFIRMS INDIAN NUCLEAR SEPARATION PLAN AT ADVANCED STAGE

¶1. Speaking to the press December 11 while en route to Kuala Lumpur for the East Asian Summit, Indian PM Singh told journalists India is working quickly to meet commitments it made in the July 18, 2005 nuclear agreement with the United States. Specifically, the PM said plans for separating India's civilian and military nuclear facilities were at a "fairly advanced stage."

¶2. COMMENT: The Indians have been telling us they are working on a separation plan. We expect Foreign Secretary Shyam Saran may preview that plan to Washington officials when he visits December 20-21. We will continue to seek clarification on the contours of the plan, but the PM's statement comes as welcome evidence of forward progress within the Indian bureaucracy to make the July 18 civilian nuclear energy agreement a reality. END COMMENT.
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